



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 03327.2333-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Yasuhiro OKUMOTO et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 1792
	)	
Application No.: 10/539,246	)	
	)	Examiner: Empie, Nathan H.
Filed: May 9, 2006	)	
	)	
For: PROCESSING METHOD AND	)	Confirmation No.: 9261
PROCESSING APPARATUS	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In response to the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review filed December 3, 2008 and the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review mailed December 23, 2008, the period for response which extends through February 3, 2009, Applicants file concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and amend this application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper and begin on page 2.

**Remarks** follow the amendment section of this paper.